IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate for electrolytic recovery of metal, said plate including a cathode blade having a first and second face for metal deposition thereon, and a hanger bar, said hanger bar ~~comprises~~ comprising a corrosion resistant support element connected to the blade of the cathode plate and an electrically conductive metal cladding affixed thereto, the electrically conductive metal cladding extending over at least a portion of the support element to the cathode blade and extending downwardly from the support element part way down both first and second faces of the cathode blade.

2. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support element is constructed from stainless steel.

3. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate for electrolytic recovery of metal, said plate including a cathode blade and a hanger bar, said hanger bar comprising a corrosion resistant support element connected to the blade of the cathode plate and an electrically conductive metal cladding affixed thereto, the electrically conductive metal cladding extending over at least a portion of the support element to the cathode blade part way down the cathode blade ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein said support element is hollow.

4. (Previously presented) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed such that it covers the entire exterior of the support element.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is interference fitted to the support element.

7. (Previously Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element.

8. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by aluminum bronze weld.

9. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by silicone bronze weld.

10. (Previously Amended) A hanger bar claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is mechanically and/or chemically fastened to the support element.

11. (Previously Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support element is co-extruded with the electrically conductive metal cladding.

12. (Previously Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is roll-formed onto the support element.

13. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cladding extends from the support element to a position 30 to 40 mm above the metal deposition area on the cathode blade.

14. (Previously Amended) A hanger bar as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blade comprises stainless steel.

15. (Previously presented) A hanger bar as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal is copper.

16. (Currently amended) A method of producing a cathode plate for electrolytic recovery of metal comprising a cathode blade having first and second faces for metal deposition thereon, said method comprising connecting a corrosion resistant support element to the cathode blade, said element being adapted to support the cathode plate in an electrolytic bath, and affixing a cladding of electrically conductive metal to the support element wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding extends over at least a portion of the support element downward to the cathode blade and part way down both first and second faces of the cathode blade.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the cladding is affixed to the support element after connection of the support element and cathode blade.

18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the cladding is affixed to the support element before connection of the support element to the cathode blade.

19. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by an interference fit.

20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by welding.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by aluminum bronze weld.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to he support element and/or cathode plate by silicone bronze weld.

23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by chemical or mechanical fastening.

24. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the support and electrically conductive metal cladding are affixed by roll forming.

25. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the cathode blade and/or support element are constructed from stainless steel.

26. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal is copper.